



# NEWS RELEASE

*Office of the  
United States Attorney  
for the  
District of Nebraska*  
**Joe W. Stecher**

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1620 Dodge Street Suite 1400 Omaha NE 68102-1506 (402) 661-3700

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February 9, 2009

United States Attorney Joe Stecher and the United States Fish & Wildlife Service announce the following information for the attention of the media:

**Event Triggering this Release:** United States District Court Judge Laurie Smith Camp sentenced Danny Johnson, Patricia Johnson and their corporation, Real Hunt, Inc., to five years probation following their convictions on interstate transportation of wildlife taken in violation of state law. While on probation, the defendants will not be allowed to hunt, fish, trap, guide or provide outfitting services. The defendants were further ordered to pay a total fine of \$40,000.00. In addition, Danny and Patricia Johnson were each ordered to pay a special assessment of \$25 while Real Hunt, Inc. was ordered to pay a \$400 special assessment.

In 2005 and 2006, the Johnsons ran a hunting outfitting and lodging service out of their home near Decatur, Nebraska. Their corporation, Real Hunt, Inc., owned real estate in the area which they allowed their clients to hunt.

In 2005, the outfitting service brought in a group of hunters from Wisconsin. As part of the contracted services the Johnsons were to provide hunting permits for the hunters. However, as there were no out-of-state permits available that year, the Johnsons had family members obtain in-state permits. When the Wisconsin hunters killed a deer, a family member holding a permit checked-in the deer to make it appear as if the family member had killed the animal. The deer were then transported to the hunters' homes in Wisconsin.

In 2006, the outfitting service brought in a group of hunters from Tennessee. On this occasion the Johnsons did not provide permits as out-of-state permits were available. However, there were no permits available for the district in which the corporation's land was located. Therefore, the hunters were advised to get a more expensive statewide permit or to purchase a permit which allowed hunting only in the neighboring district. Most of the Tennessee hunters opted to take the district only permit. Therefore, when deer were killed, the Johnsons transported the hunters and their deer to check-in stations in the neighboring district to make it appear as if the deer had been taken in that district. The deer were then transported to the hunters' homes in Tennessee.

**Name of Defendant:** Danny Johnson, Patricia Johnson and Real Hunt, Inc.

**AKA:**

**Crime(s) Charged and Potential Penalty** (A CHARGE is merely an accusation and every defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty): Unlawful transportation of wildlife taken in violation of state law in violation of 16 U.S.C. §3372(a). The maximum statutory penalty is one year of imprisonment and/or a \$100,000 fine.

**Specific Location of Alleged Crime:** Decatur, Nebraska

**Location of Arrest:** a summons was issued in lieu of arrest

**Alleged Dollar Loss/Type and Quantity of Drug:**

**Others Charged in Same Scheme:**

**Relevant Dates:**

**Date of Alleged Crime:** November 14, 2005

**Federal Arrest Date:**

**Date Complaint Issued:**

**Indictment Returned Date:** February 21, 2008

**Initial Appearance Date:** March 24, 2008

**Plea or Trial and Date(s):** November 17, 2008

**Sentencing Date:** February 9, 2009

**Next Court Hearing Type and Date:**

**Assigned Magistrate Judge:** Honorable F.A. Gossett, III

**Held without Bond, or Released from Custody:** released from custody

**In Continuous Custody Since:**

**Assigned District Court Judge:** Honorable Laurie Smith Camp

**Initials of Assigned AUSA/Preparer of THIS Release:** DRS